

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8714

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5670

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FOR ASST. SECY HOLBROOKE

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, UNGA, MY

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S WASHINGTON VISIT

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 5360; (B) STATE 192498; (C) KUALA LUMPUR
5480

1. MFA UNDERSECRETARY (POLITICAL DIVISION I) RAZALI ISMAIL REQUESTED DCM CALL ON HIM AUG 20 TO DISCUSS PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. POL SECTION CHIEF ALSO SAT IN ON MEETING. RAZALI REITERATED POINTS MADE BY SATHIAH (REFS A AND C) AND STATED THAT THE PM BEGAN TO FOCUS ON HIS U.S. VISIT "A FEW DAYS AGO." RAZALI STRESSED THAT AT THAT TIME THE PM INDICATED HE ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO HIS WASHINGTON VISIT AND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, AND HOPED TALKS IN WASHINGTON WITH USG OFFICIALS COULD BE AS SUBSTANTIVE AS POSSIBLE. AS AN ASIDE, RAZALI REMARKED THAT THE TREATMENT ACCORDED DATUK HUSSEIN WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO THE PM PERSONALLY IN THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONTEXT.

2. RAZALI INDICATED GOM AWARE OF DEMANDS ON PRESIDENT'S
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SCHEDULE AND DID NOT REPEAT NOT PRESS FOR FURTHER PRESIDENTIAL INVOLVEMENT. HOWEVER, SINCE THE PM WILL BE COMING FROM AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO JAPAN, WHERE HE WILL RECEIVE "THE FULL WORKS," MALAYSIAN STAFFERS ARE CONCERNED THAT THERE NOT REPEAT NOT BE MARKED CONTRAST BETWEEN HIS RECEPTION IN THE TWO CAPITALS. RAZALI SUGGESTED A PROPOSED PROGRAM THAT FROM GOM POINT OF VIEW WOULD SATISFY

REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH SUBSTANCE AND A MODICUM OF "TRIMMINGS." FIRST, A WORKING LUNCHEON HOSTED BY SECRETARY VANCE WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. SENDON, HE REMARKED THAT THE GOM WAS AWARE OF PRECEDENTS WHEREBY ONE OR TWO U.S. CABINET SECRETARIES WITH A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN A COUNTRY WOULD CALL ON A VISITING HEAD OF GOVERNMENT; IN THIS REGARD HE MENTIONED SECRETARY BERGLUND, WHO VISITED HERE IN JUNE (AND MET WITH THEN ACTING PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR). HE SAID THAT THE MALAYSIANS WOULD LIKE THIS POSSIBILITY TO BE EXPLORED. THIRD, A MEETING WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. FOURTH, ACCOMMODATION AT BLAIR HOUSE FOR THE PM AND HIS OFFICIAL PARTYJR IF POSSIBLE. RAZALI ADDED THAT HE HAD JUST CABLED THESE SUGGESTIONS TO AMBASSADOR ZAIN AZRAAI AND HE ASSUMED ZAIN WOULD BE MAKING PARALLEL APPROACHES TO DEPT.

3. DCM INDICATED THAT WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WERE ALREADY WORKING HARD ON PM'S VISIT, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THESE FURTHER SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS, AND PROMISED TO CONVEY POINTS RAISED BY RAZALI TO WASHINGTON ON PRIORITY BASIS.

4. FYI: RAZALI MENTIONED THAT PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN WILL ADDRESS THE UNGA ON SEPTEMBER 30 AND WILL SPEAK BEFORE THE ASIA SOCIETY IN NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 4.
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5. COMMENT: WE INTERPRET MEETING AS AN ATTEMPT TO REITERATE AT A HIGHER LEVEL POINTS PREVIOUSLY MADE BY SATHIAH TO POL SECTION CHIEF, AS WELL AS TO INJECT SPECIFIC PROGRAM PROPOSALS. WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT TAKEN INITIATIVE IN SUGGESTING ANY OF THESE PROPOSALS TO MALAYSIANS, BUT HOPE THEY WILL RECEIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AS POSSIBLE ELEMENTS IN SUITABLY "PACKAGING" PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN'S WASHINGTON VISIT.
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